

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 11, Number 4

Jan. - Feb., 1956

IN MINIATURE



MINNIE PRUE



Years ago we had a saintly college professor who stressed in many of his inspirational talks, "The Infinitely Great, and the Infinitely Small." Now it so happens that I am writing this (it will be a doll story) on a vacation stop in Zion National Park. Never, with the exception of mid-ocean, have we been so surrounded by the Infinitely Great expressions of Nature under the sky, which is itself God's space unlimited! It is the time of uranium search; an infinitesimal bit of which may have the power to light a city for a hundred years! The vast and the minute, truly great fields to contemplate, when restless minds soar above daily trivia, the needs, the hobbies, pleasures, responsibilities of daily life.

Doll Talk is pledged to stick to dolls and doll news. This time there is though, two such tiny, precious ones to introduce. Those

towering rocks of multi-colored strata just overpowered an ordinary lead! But now here are the facts: For the tiniest chinahead doll, Dorothy Hesner, who has designed delightful larger ones, was asked by us to use her talent for miniatures in making "Minnie Prue" for Kimport. An old-fashioned veil pin, with round china head, is painted, oh, so delicately small, with black hair and wee features, red bow mouth and all so very like those ordinary German chinaheads. The pin so bends, and cuts to form a standard, on a two deck base; the torso, arms and legs are made by Dorothy and dressed in fine white lace, rose crepe-de-chine, and there you are, a chinaheaded doll one full inch tall—a work of art! Minnie Prue is No. 152, at \$2.95.

The other astonishingly perfect new wee one is Her Royal Highness, the lovely young Elizabeth in a dome; height over all, including crystal base, One inch! You would have to see — and that through a magnifying glass, to believe such perfection! The crown, orb and scepter, the white gown with pin points of sparkle, and red robe with ermine implied, all is beautifully there on a doll only $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in height. Who could make such a miniature? Why, only Ada Bridgman Odenrider, whose talent and ideas do out-race her health, betimes. So, proudly we offer this Queen in a capsule, No. 34E at \$4.50.

There are so many of you who love the tiny things, and any one has room for these—we'll list some other new and repeat miniatures, none over $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall.

Certain artistic families, "Down Mexico Way" have made one type of doll for several generations. Such are the Vargas waxes, and we're sorry not to have the family name of that imaginative tribe who from material at hand, perfected a technique for dressing Fleas! Yes, many of you know these amazing tinies that come two in a slide covered box less than fingernail size. We could send three pairs assorted, really no two are alike, due to the delightful variation of imagination and hand-work on their costumes. No. 390—per pair in a box, \$1.00.

Needle Dolls were another Mexican family adventure, the armature being fine wire twisted through a needle eye to fashion limbs and body, then a dab of head and suit



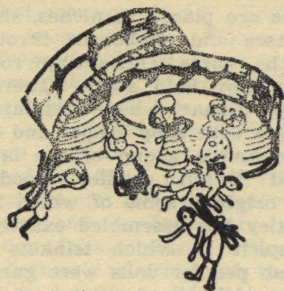
or dress; also assorted styles. No. 390N—Needle Man, and 390NA—Needle Woman, at \$1.00 each.

These were irresistible—real little rag dolls, immaculately clean and colorful, with plum pretty embroidered features; man wears a hat, girl, a rebosa, both carry baskets, and all of that would not be odd — BUT—they're only one inch tall, No. 364M at 60 cents the pair. See front page.



"Love Story in a Nutshell" is another that surely amuses folk. Into a cut, then hinged English walnut, are placed in sequence scenes, half dozen real dolls, one-half inch size, all dressed and doing things against a background—Oh, again you'd have to see it to believe it. No. 390P, \$1.50.

Always a favorite, one children especially love, is that painted wooden bandbox from Guatemala that contains half-a-dozen of the busiest, bendingest, little market day folk. These real dolls average



a scant inch in height, yet they are fully costumed and even carry bundles! No. 366M at 95 cents.

From Italy, Kimport brings in the most delightful wooden miniatures. The artistic Sevi family who seem responsible for these smart moderns such as the wooden Santas of last D.T., and Pinocchio who is a stand-by (35 cents), well, we McKims do seem to be personal friends to the extent of receiving wooden stork-with-bambino cards for, "Georg,"—Mai 1953, and now, for "Erika"—flying high! That makes their little family of four as timely as they are pleasing — "papa and mamma, — children"—the set of 4, No. 755 at \$1.50.

(These dolls are shown on this month's envelope.)

More a real doll, jointed and dressed, is inch high Peggy Maria. Her wooden legs fit up into the torso, and her arms fit onto a piece that goes clear through her wooden shoulders, just as in antique peg woodens. Her black enameled hair and conventional features make P.M. a dear little companion to that proud new chi-

na-headed Minnie (ture) Prue! No. 762, Jointed Wooden Girl—60 cents.

Another "repeater" is the fancy miniature pair of Kokeshi dolls from Japan. These 5/8" wobbly headed woodens in tiny glass topped case sold out in a hurry the last time we offered them but we were able to obtain several dozen more sets of two with the same fine high gloss finish and "seven year seasoned" wood. They are No. 809M, 75c.

Since this story started with exclusive, hand-made items, let's close it with the same by mentioning the few remaining little cases that we have containing Baroness Maydell dolls. Truly distinctive are her "Maying" and "June" pairs, each couple mounted with artistic background into an arch topped box. These were priced \$15.00 each; a door may be a little warped, but figures are perfect, and so, to close, about a dozen pairs. No. 35B "June" or 35D "Maying"—\$10.00 each.

TURNED TABLES

Mary W. Scott sent in from Pennsylvania, a story and picture of Washington Junior Red Cross members accepting gift dolls from West Germany. Yes, that's the script. For children made homeless by our West Coast floods, a hundred lovely looking dolls, apparently in old peasant costumes, had been hastily dispatched FROM Europe TO U.S.A. Such good will expressions are so heartening—maybe 1956 will be a good, good year after all!

THE HINCKLEY WOODENS

Amongst the well authenticated collections of Dolls for Posterity, surely the ones that have been gathered into Guachama, the California ranch home of Mrs. Clive Hinckley, rank tops for woodens. By the way, "Guachama" is an Indian word—it was the name of a little Indian village the first padres going through this valley found right here. The meaning—"Place of Plenty"—(plenty contentment, plenty fun, plenty of dolls!). Mrs. Hinckley's pursuit of the doll hobby has been consistently for worthy and interestingly rare items; she has followed it for ten years, accumulating choice groups with adequate notations, which should eventually be placed in a Historical Museum.

To lead off with one most arresting face, she hopes there will be an even dozen best examples of real Queen Anne dolls. When we visited her, in September '55, it was just one short of this goal! Oldest are several 17th century woodens that may have been used as fashion models. Besides the dozen—less—one Maryannegeorgians, 1690-1800, there are many intriguing one-of-a-kind specimens of different periods. And literally by the dozen are the Victorian peg-woodens that vary in size from less than one inch to a tall thirteen inches or so.

In one big old frame will be a trio of 18th century porcelain-eyed ladies of court, grouped primly against rich brocade, old as the dolls themselves. In other shadow boxes, groups or single choice ones pose, while properly related larger

groups are placed in niches, shelves, cases and cupboards throughout the three enchanting rooms where they hold sway. There is a toy bazaar where miniatures combine with shop-keeper and customer, and a group of the large-headed Dutch peddler woodens, some original, some of which Mrs. Hinckley has assembled exactly in the spirit in which trinkets for English peddler dolls were garnered a good hundred years past. One of these merchandises mending and sewing needs only, another sells toys, one, fresh flowers, one, pasties and such.

I do think my favorite is the Wedding Reception, maybe because quite a few of those slender, 2, 2½ inch peg woodens had come via Kimport. The second floor of an old two-story, two-room doll house has been trimmed out to form a balcony for which a patient friend carved and completed, like match-stick newels, the balustrade, all 'round this upper gallery. Here in fine clothes of 1820-40 (or you could say, the Biedermeier period) the lady and gentlemen guests form picturesque clusters. Below in a most lavish ballroom, the bride and groom stand in front of a flower-banked fireplace surrounded by the wedding party, relatives and near family friends.

One idea I did ask for permission to bring was most graciously granted by this frail woman you'd all love on sight. She is a perfectionist without belittling the efforts of others. She knows materials, period fashions and methods of making the right costumes, but (don't we all?) values original old above almost any re-doing.

That pass-on idea? You may have seen Grandma Moses prints in drapery material. Some of these scenes—"Winter," "The Old Farm," "Early Spring," etc., are used in toto as backgrounds while from others sections are cut and arranged to form special settings. These are put into old shadow-box frames and in front are placed wooden dolls—children with sleds, the farmer's daughter at the old-fashioned pump, a Maypole group, the whole blending to make gay and lively pictures.

Mrs. Hinckley, who lives alone with her dolls in her picturesque hacienda, makes her famous collection (about two hundred strong) pay for itself. You'd feel privileged to leave a dollar in that cool, tiled entry where the Hinckley woodens offer you first greeting.

FROM MARTINEZ, ARGENTINA

Frances Krieger wrote soon after Thanksgiving that she had retired to the attic for a binge of Christmas letter writing. This good doll friend always includes bits of lore and local color to pass along from their South American home; she does remain an ardent Doll Talk fan, and so does her bit to maintain its interest. This time Mrs. Krieger writes:—

"Last May I saw a remarkable doll exhibited here by Pan American on a goodwill tour. She is Gretchen, a pretty flaxen haired doll from the Mannheim factory at Frankfort, Germany. Made of cloth, rather like a Kathe Kruse child, she is about 32 inches high; sophisticated, has been around the

world, speaks a dozen languages and is the only doll to possess a passport, which was issued at Hong Kong. After visiting other South American countries, she was expecting to travel through the seven Caribbean countries.

"With the holidays nearing, I am also passing on an item that appeared in the Christian Herald (English magazine) December 1904 issue. It noted that while Thomas Edison, the inventor, was experimenting with a telephone mouth-piece hoping to contrive a speaking apparatus to go inside a doll, for a Christmas novelty, that vibrations set up by his voice put him on the road to producing the gramophone.

"The revolution has come and gone here in Argentina. No doubt you have read all about it in the news. Peron left the country in an economic mess, but there is a definite hope for a better life in this land. I hope the time will come when I can go to the bank, as before, and have them make out a money order for any book or doll I might fancy, a thing which has been impossible these past ten years."

"NEITHER A BORROWER NOR—"

Along with her rush buying order for several dozen doll stands, Dorothy Y. Ripper says:—"For my regular monthly shows at the schools, I take only 35 to 40 dolls at a time, and borrow the stands back and forth. However, on December 12, I am taking about 150 to the Gulf Beach Library here on the islands, hence the S.O.S."

LATE ARRIVALS



Since we went all out on tiny dolls for front page billing this time, let's consider for the first part of this department a secondary heading,

ALMOST MINIATURE!



Made in Israeli to depict the Arab market and agrarian folk. Their pedigree pages call them, "Fuad" and "Esme," a Mohammedan couple who still have many ancient ways in this changing

world. Standing on polished olive wood discs, they measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; some women are seated with a hemp basket of fruits. Faces, feet and hands are leather, clothing and various possessions well made.

No. 896 — Fuad — \$2.50

No. 896A — Esme — \$2.50

If you have been a tourist to Mexico City, chances are that one trip was out to Xochimilco Park, there to be rowed around on one of the fantastically flower decked barges. A miniature, all wood and lacquered pods and such is made into a most artistic fruit and flower laden barge; $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, it is piloted by an inch and a half high "Pedro." The carving of this

pretty souvenir is crisply done, and although inexpensive, it will serve as a delightful reminder to one who has by hearsay or in person enjoyed the overhanging shade, the open waters of canals through floating island gardens, on Xochimilco Lake. No. 362 — \$1.00

Before we move on to regular "shelf size" late arrivals, here's about one other small pair—'late reductions'.

There are two or three dozen left; they are delightful, brown wood "Home Maker" and "Home Guard" on decorated square bases, smartly painted in stark white, cobalt blue, black, red and rich yellow. Just under 4 inches tall—instead of \$5.00 for the pair, No. 654 — Hindu with stick gun — \$1.95

No. 654A — Woman with cooking things — \$1.95



From the British Isles, quite a few replacements are in; pretty "Buttercup" from Norah Welling does fill in nicely for an English girl doll that looks the part. Eight inch size, in velvet and felt, this pert blonde Britisher wears a poke bonnet over her pigtailed and a laced bodice around her trim waist.

No. 296A — English Girl — \$3.75

Sometimes dolls suffer a lack of nice detail when translated into smaller edition, but we would say that 5", 5½" li'e Favorites Espagnole have been sized down to perfection! Those round-eyed, squirrel-cheeked comic versions of Spanish idols, have been happily popular ever since Spain climbed back into a bit of world trade. We found these miniature sets quite irresistible.

Matador with Sword, No. 1010—\$4.50. Toreador with cape only, but oh so gallant — No. 1010B \$4.50. "Antonia," Andalusian dancing girl with castanets — No. 1010A \$4.50.



The Tower Guard or Beefeater has been absent even longer from our shelves. His price had raised, but certainly 'twill ne'er be less, so-o, we decided with all those thistle, shamrock and Tudor rose embroideries, this doll that every one knows as a symbol

of London, is worth the price! From Liberty; the gold braiding, the rosettes and ruff on his rich scarlet costume is perfection. Ten inches tall, that menacing halberd is good 12 inches long!

No. 259—English "Beefeater"—\$12.50

Scotch Andrew and Agnes, Irish Bridget have not been out of stock, but Welsh Llewelyn and Gwenyd have had us worried. Their nice maker, Joan Lucas, had a series of things happen in their ordinarily lucky Welsh home. Not even a letter came for months, but now dolls have arrived and we are hoping Joan's 1956 will be wonderful again. She has improved her dolls a bit by putting them on good wooden bases which does save the price of a stand, and increased the size from 6 to 7 inches. This is more to scale with other foreign folk; their pretty enameled faces

and excellently made wool and gingham costumes remain the same.

No. 262—Llewelyn of Wales—\$4.50

No. 262A—Gwenyd of Wales—\$4.50

There is never room to give a story to each Kimport arrival, but three such pretty brunette complexioned dolls as Zori, Zrinyi, Ilona and Katzica deserve detailed description. "Hungarian finery," "Magyar love of rich embroideries," "the gypsy strain" are evidenced in all.

"Zori," the bride in flower crown headdress, has been with us in varying versions for years. "Zrinyi Ilona" from the province of Transylvania also wears a little crown, but with the lace scarf over it. Her pedigree page tells of her given name, why the basket, and maybe even why the glint in her eye! "Katzica" we thought was Bessarabian, and loved her—"crown" again? Well, yes, it's very like old Russian headdress, all lace, ribbon, sequin trimmed and gathered across the top like a circular fan.

All three Hungarians wear short, full, bedecked skirts, shining boots, elaborate, but really different aprons. Height, 9½ inches; workmanship excellent!

No. 205 — Zori — \$7.95

No. 205A — Katzica — \$7.95

No 205B — Zrinyi Ilona — \$7.95



ANKLES, FRONT!

If, in your Caribbean group, the dolls from St. Kitts or St. Lucia have their skirts down level—it is Sunday. Yes, on the six week days it's customary to tuck them up coquettishly. Um-m! Just how provocative can a brown cloth moppet get to be!

'TWAS A VALENTINE

Miss Ann Ayer, New York, wrote about a family keepsake of hers, when our old lady with rheumatiz appeared as cover girl on last July Doll Talk. She was especially amused because—"My mother had saved a similar one which is a Valentine. It has four holes, two in tub, and Grandma has a cup of tea in her hand. On the back is printed, 'To My Valentine'—

'While you drink your cup of tea
See this card and think of me.
Your Valentine I'll always be.'

"I can remember having a good laugh, long ago, as a little girl, See this card and think of me."

"LIKE FATHER—"

Mildred Reap, writing from Maryland to buy some Christmas dolls also lists some good future wants, notably 'such ones as belonged to early American children'. Accenting this bent, she tucked in this appreciated paragraph:—

"Today is my father's 87th birthday and I nearly dated this 12-6-68! Surrounded by my dolls, many of which were 'born' around that period makes it very easy to step back. We took 'Pa' to Coopers-town, N.Y. last year and when he saw the exhibit of iron kettles, sap collecting paraphernalia, etc., he 'hmphd'—"Nothin' unusual here —'seen this stuff all my life!"

No wonder we repeat how dolls do fit into almost all phases of life, certainly with early settlin', pioneering, establishing new homes with always little American girl tots loving their dollies, whether rag or rich ones.

BRITISH ACCENT

In conversation on almost any given subject, 'tis apt to be heard—"This is an era of specialists." Certainly hobbyists do select one line to learn about, and then often specialize again on some one facet of the whole.

If we could visit many of the large and small collections of dolls, we would undoubtedly find the owner partial to the segment she has studied most. There is much satisfaction enjoyed by being in on the know of any endeavor, and oh, so much that may be learned in the study of dolls!

When we saw the large, but carefully selected collection of Miss Margaret Shapleigh, there was one favorite group in which she had really specialized to the figure of about 150 dolls. These were all historical—perhaps a few literary—characters, as made exclusively for Liberty of London. They cover not only a select roster from some 150 regularly offered as available, but when in London and through letters, orders were accepted by Liberty to make a number of specials for Miss Shapleigh, but they do have to be of people deceased, you know. The only exception to this policy is when Liberty depicts a Royal Family group, and that at Coronation time only.

Those ancient Kings from legendary Arthur and Alfred, then all through the various dynasties, the Conqueror William, and Richard Coeur de Lion—clear through George VI, these with their Queens and contemporary greats form a cavalcade of pageantry that would intrigue any one into going over their history of Mother England.

SPEAKING ANTIQUE

Miniatures and larger but still little dolls will be featured this time. Should you want bigger, or better, or different types there are two new Jan. '56 listing sheets, one priced under \$40.00, and the second, really choice, rare and higher valued, above \$40.00. Here are half dozen under 2 inches:—

Perfect, really old Penny Wooden; dressed, 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ ", No. A894, \$4.50.

Same type, these do have enameled faces and bust; are peg jointed, only this one is 1- $\frac{1}{8}$ " size and undressed; No. A894X, \$2.00.

Of wax, that looks like ivory, are the loveliest pair of child-like Georgian angels; 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ " size. They are in classic cherub position with uplifted arms and flexed knees, as if upheld by their precious gilt wings; there is a tiny hanger loop between shoulders. Came from English owner who said they dated in the 1820's. The two are quite perfect, a third broken one is included at no cost. No. A899, \$16.50 the pair.

Another wax, not the "ivory" quality and not angelic, is a plain play baby, 2" tall, in original handmade infant clothes that are as yellowed with age as old ivory! Circa 1855, No. A177, \$5.00.

Last and a most rare find in this tiny size, is a shapely wee wooden, 1- $\frac{3}{4}$ "; tarleton frock and sweet slender doll all original and perfect. Circa 1825. We called her "Lady Locket" because we remembered seeing just such an a-

ristocratic little doll, mounted in an antique, oval, shadow-box-type brooch or locket. It was truly distinctive. Although the limbs are smaller than match sticks they are enameled and jointed at knees and elbows, as well as hips and shoulders. No. A924 \$30.00.



Now let's go up in size to a group not over, oh, about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". That will take in a proud group of dressed, wooden chess men, the very dolls shown in a Chelsea Antiques Journal, there dated as between 1795 and 1820. The cut of one soldier, from its il-

lustration, gives an idea of how elaborately these 2- $\frac{3}{4}$ " woodens were costumed. Originally there had been a complete set from Kings and Queens down to pawns which were Naval officers in blue, and helmeted guards like the illustration. Amazingly intricate epaulettes, buttons, braid and accoutrements accent their old silk uniforms. From leaded base to tip of his tasseled headgear, the guard, as shown, is No. A601S, \$30.00.

A pair, the "Admiral" and this soldier would be delightful. He is No. A601N, \$30.00, or, since we do have several of these "pawns," let's say, No. A601 Pr. at \$52.00.

Oxford Graduate, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " to crown of his mortarboard, is perfect for

someone who appreciates those higher degrees of learning. He's No. A601G, \$32.50. One other set was composed of Oriental Potentates. Now, we do not know which represents Bishops, castles or knights as our chess men would be, but these fabulously clad little gentlemen of the Far East could well commemorate the visiting delegation which so impressed his Majesty George III that he added a fantastic Oriental wing to his shore palace, being constructed at Brighton! One of these had no headgear, hence its tuck-comb head shows; probably all are of this kind, but caps and such are too firmly glued on to pry. In silks, chenille and embroidery, the potentate is No. A601P, \$32.50.

One perfect tuck-comb lady, lower limbs enameled like her head and bust, is 3½" tall. Original clothes; bottle green silk brocade with rose ribbons; all perfect; early 19th century. No. A908, \$32.00.

Little Lady Chelsea is a black-eyed chinahead with high glaze, pinkish complexion and wide old-fashioned hair style that seems to have a soft bun in back. Her flat, pointed feet and limbs are the slenderest ever. Darling old clothes, she is 3¼"; of 1855 (or thereabouts) distinct class. No. A615, \$16.50.

Very old and strange is a wooden and gesso cleric or saint; only 2-¾" in size, solemn bearded head has no whit of retouching; all garments, too, are original. He looks like a museum bit; came to Kimport directly from England. No. A711, \$8.50.

The next miniature, 3", is definitely a clergyman, an odd material, and an antique. Yes, a wishbone doll so old that it has crumbled a bit, is dressed in priestly vestments; the fine lawn, once-white cape is trimmed with hand-made Valenciennes lace. No. A586, \$5.00.

In this "Speaking," the offerings have all been small and rare. There are also more ordinary ones like all bisques, bisques with composition, and china headed little dolls always available through Kimport. But to round out this time, here is some little furniture and accessory offerings that assuredly keep in the unusual classification. We received the Georgian and Victorian doll house furnishings directly from England.

White and gilt china parlor set; 3" long, love-seat, round-top table 1½" high, 2" in circumference; two chairs 2" to top of back. One chair has a broken leg and there is a chip off of one of the three 'petals' which form the table base. French and fancy in contour, we'd call this miniature set a cabinet piece. No. A.F., 4 pieces, \$7.95.

Also French looking is a little ribbon chair, so beautifully handmade that one can scarcely see the stitches. It is soft green silk with an embroidered ribbon panel, and cut steel beads trimming it along the sides; very decorative; the seat is 1½" high; the back, 3½". No. A.C. — \$3.00.

Pewter crib with its old bedding, gray filigree with blue scroll top; 4" long; No. A.B. — \$4.50.

Exquisite little white glass tea set, very thin with gilt and tiny

flower decoration. Complete six cups and saucers, creamer, sugar, waste bowl with lids. Round brass tray $3\frac{1}{2}$ " across, came with it. Cups are $\frac{1}{2}$ " high; tea pot, 1". 19 Items, No. A.T. \$18.00.

A pair of antique watercolor landscapes are 2" x 4" in size; charmingly done and framed in old gilt paper. They are ready to hang with gold silk. Well over 100 years old. No. A.W. \$3.50.

Larger pair — these watercolor originals are truly lovely; these are 4" x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " and on the back in faded ink, "By old Mrs. Twemlow." Same artist for all, we are certain, and the same repousse gold paper framing. No. A.W.X., the pair, \$4.95.

Gilt edged, and tooled Morocco bound book of daily Bible verses, 1" x $1\frac{1}{4}$ ", perfect; gift inscribed and dated "March 1832." No. A.B., \$7.50.

Three piece fireplace set; $3\frac{1}{2}$ " shovel, tongs and poker, with Georgian urn, gilt tops. Ornate, perfect old set. No. A.H., \$5.00.

Victorian foot tub, oval $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". Heavy tin, painted like bound slats; ornate handles, cunning old tinsmith made item. No. A.D., \$3.50.

Clock from the Georgian doll house things is mahogany, a rather top-heavy design with 4 columns and a flat gable top; nice dial set in brass. $1\frac{3}{4}$ " tall, clock face, $\frac{1}{2}$ " across. No. A.E. \$5.00.

Pair of tall ($1\frac{3}{4}$ ") candlesticks with little thumb handles; brass finished pewter and really old, of course. No. A.G., pair \$1.50.

Pair of wall sconces, very ornate, lions head and scrolls with flower

shaped candle cups; gold plated, we think. $1\frac{1}{8}$ " size and perfect with two candlecups each. Pair, No. A.S., \$12.50.

Ornately patterned pewter sad-iron, 1" long, No. A-1, 85 cents.

Heavy pewter porringer — lovely old piece, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter, open scroll work handle. No. A.P., \$3.50.

There are "minnie, minnie" others, but for doll house or pedlar — this is a few, so as always we say, "Write in any special wants," because so many wonderful things do keep coming Kimport way.

GOODWILL NATIONAL DOLL SHOW

The 20th annual of this show will be held at the Goodwill Industries Building in San Diego during the week of February 6-11, 1956. Theme will be "Dolls in Song and Story" which is to be a new idea, sponsored by their local club, to arrange the many exhibits as well as the Goodwill's dolls with settings, in special groups and with informative card data. This show, started in San Diego during the 1936 California Pacific International Exposition, has continued as an annual affair. Included will be such displays as "Down South," "The Merry Widow," "Anniversary Waltz," "Easter Parade," etc., as well as scenes to represent popular songs. Fairy Tale subjects, Mother Goose, with nursery rhyme characters will all be set up. The show is free, so if vacation time is taking you to southern California that week — this does sound like something well worth visiting. We are indebted to Allie Vigneault for the invitation.

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

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DOLLS TELL THE STORY OF HAWAII

Written by Luella Hart

In a cleverly designed and well edited little booklet of 24 pages, size 4" x 6", Luella Hart has portrayed the history and costumes of Hawaii most completely.

Mrs. Hart is a perfectionist and when she devotes her interest to the subject of dolls in any part of the world she comes up with something authoritative and worthwhile. As so many doll collectors know, she's generous with information as to sources and prices and other helpful advice from her travels and studies and when she writes a book it simply overflows with fascinating detail.

Since the Holoku is the basic garment of Hawaii, a little quote from the book will show how Mrs. Hart develops the story: "After 1820 Queen Kamamalu and her re-

tinue, saw, for the first time, the latest Boston dresses worn by two missionary ladies, and they loved what they saw. It was the short waisted, belted and fitted mode, with tight narrow skirt and fitted sleeve of Boston of 1820. The missionaries realized at once that the tight dress with belt would not be suitable for the ample figure of the Island women. But the missionaries made it compulsory for attendance at church and secular affairs, that the body must be covered. Sewing classes began. The use of a needle was taught and the first lesson was to run up a seam ("go-stop"). Some references state that the word "holoku" referred to "go-stop" of the needle as it ran up the side seam of the garment. Other writers of early days declare that, when the island women first donned the dress, they cried in delight, "holoku" which can mean "We can run in it, we can stand."

The text is illustrated with 13 clever doll drawings by Robert Gearhart and included with the book is a supplementary strip of these paper dolls, each 2 inches high and making a complete gallery of Hawaiian costume and dolls from 1820 to this season's style. This book sells for \$1.25 postpaid. Luckily, Kimport can also supply one pair of the Hawaii dolls as pictured and described in Mrs. Hart's book:

Paulani is a 7 inch island charmer, completely garbed in a holoku of ruffled print calico, and wears the traditional lei and has a provocative hibiscus in her hair. She



has painted features and high stylized yarn hair. No. 459A, priced \$3.75.

The matching beach boy, Joe, has the same authentic styling, and his hand-woven hat is an achievement. His brilliant shirt and his jolly face will intrigue you and the pair of dolls would be a fine antidote for winter blues. His number, 459, price, \$3.75.

ACTION— LIGHTS—CAMERA!

Mrs. Louise Leonberger sends in some notes on a special exhibit of mechanical dolls and toys that will be shown and activated at the Sutro Museum, San Francisco. The days of this showing are Feb. 11 and 12, the hours from 1 to 4 p.m.

Sorry, we can't all be there, but this listing of entries does sound like passing along to you.

Mrs. Leonberger tells of "a bear that blows bubbles, a negro smoking a cigarette, an innkeeper of old attracting attention to his inn by beating on a tin pan, children at

a Christmas party playing with their toys, etc., these from the collection of Mrs. Andrew Nagy.

From the collection of Mrs. Leonberger there will be a galloping horse with a French doll in the little cart, a Jumeau doll serving tea, a French maid ironing, a doll balancing on a scooter, a lady acrobat balancing with one hand on top of a ladder, a dancing doll playing the tambourine, and from Stuttgart, Germany, an old papier-mache peasant walking.

The United Nations and other lands are well represented in the permanent exhibit of dolls and toys from the collections of members of the Club. Maps with colored streamers leading to the dolls indicate the countries where they are from, which is one of the educational features.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mrs. Ernest Rees, Jr., stopping in Washington, D.C. on a recent trip, writes about what really sounded like an institutional run-around, out at the Smithsonian. No, it really was smooth running red tape, and it did lead, she said, to some fascinating dolls. There was Miss Dorothy Heizer's Henry VIII and his six wives in some current showing, as well as the Smithsonian's collection of foreign dolls—"These I viewed from the top of a stepladder as they were cloistered away in the files! I think I about convinced Mr. Cregger, Head of the Department of Entomology, that he was making a mistake not to have them on visual storage, at least! Many were from the collection of the wife of the owner of the Washington Star.

STILL LOOKING FORWARD

From the pinnacle of 83 years, Mrs. C. E. Flower looks about and writes from her Connecticut home: "Dolls reflect the past, and so do I. Many of the old dolls that belonged to my friends who have 'passed on,' I have now. Collecting dolls with me has been a study that brings in history, fabrics, special costumes, and all sorts of background."



Q. Would you possibly have a set left of that delightful Doll Note Paper? I'm afraid I'm too late!

A. Don't y' be a pessimist—Kimport items are rarely fly-by-nighties! We expect to carry that note paper (and already there are new series sets) for months and years.

Q. Would you buy an unmarked doll head, purported to be a Greiner?

A. Yes — and at a Greiner price if it really was one.

We have concurrently had at Kimport a labeled and unlabeled Greiner that were identical. There are accurate photographs of perhaps all of these American made patent heads and too, the Greiner construction, strengthened with linen, is a telling factor. Certainly, many a little girl picked and scratched off the label of her Greiner dolly, and yes, that paper oblong does add to the resale value, and is quick proof on the doll head for a museum class collection.

Q. What is a Hakata Doll?

A. A type of all-clay figurine that has been made in Japan since the late 16th century. They are beautifully posed and painted, but, as we understand it, no cloth costuming is ever used. So-o, are they DOLLS at all? I should think the rich hued Hakatas would be more properly classified as ceramic figures that are classics in that line.

Q. Just who is Melissa, the baby on your Christmas card?

A. Grandchild, of course! Yes, she was top star on our 1954 Christmas card along with Kim McKim, our own youngest, who is part of the Kimport (Kim-import) firm. There are four other grandchildren whom we have bragged about for years—Christina Fullerton, now graduated into pre-teen dresses and her brother, Billy, who is seven with all the symptoms; then, the twins Carrie and Cathie Arnold who have moved up from Brownies to real Girl Scouts. Thanks for this "Q"; we love reporting on such an "A"!

Q. I would like to know what you mean by "H.D.D.H. limbs?"

A. These initials stand for, Humpty Dumpty Doll Hospital, located at Redondo Beach, California. We are not bribed in any way to recommend Mrs. Lillian Smith, its owner, who bought H.D.D.H. from the late Emma Clear. But our dealings have been more than satisfactory, and, considering the other attainable limbs we have seen, the fired ceramic chinas, bisques and parians from there are well worth their current prices.

CHRISTMAS HAS COME AND GONE

As said the inebriate when he slipped on the ice and shattered the bottle in his hip pocket.

BUT A BRAVE NEW YEAR

opens invitingly ahead! We hope prospects are bright for you and yours and that 1956 may bring the realization of many of your dreams.

Every new day is an adventure with us at Kimport. Strange parcels with exotic stamps may arrive; new customers may be inquiring about our dolls, or long time collector friends be writing to thank us for some particularly choice doll we have sent them or to tell of their latest doll exhibit or the arrival of a new grandchild. Oh, life is never dull when you know many hundreds of doll enthusiasts as we Kimport folks do.

The momentous problem now for Arthur and Ruby McKim is whether to leave all this thrilling daily routine and motor south. Last year we leisurely visited many cities enroute to Palm Beach and called on some of the doll collectors we knew best. Our visits were very brief, but we got a glimpse at many fine collections and often left rare dolls from the few bags we had along. We're encouraged to repeat but this time it might be a spring trip and the route lead to New York. We love the East, too! Happy Collecting

CHEERS!

In the golden days of the Golden West, the miners came to town with rags on their backs but gold in their pokes, and they fancied a bit of swank at the bars. San Francisco still maintains the tradition of waiters in wing collars and spotless white jackets.

Early Daze Bartenders are dolls made to fit the mood. He's style from his long slender legs to his black cravat and he's every inch leather—and on occasion, just as tough. Seven inches tall, he's elegant and artistic and he'll give you a lift—with or without a drink. We're neutral you see! No. 171B—\$3.95.



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